



*Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2008*

Summary

Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (11):

Phillip Stevenson, Chair, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Jeanne Brandner, Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts
Meena Shahi, Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services
Charles Katz, Arizona State University
Michelle Anderson, Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections
James Cunningham, University of Arizona (via conference call)
Wendy Wolfersteig, Arizona Prevention Resource Center, Arizona State University
Dennis Embry, PAXIS Institute
Jody Sekerak, Indian Health Services
Richard Porter, Arizona Department of Health Services
Zeenat Mahal, Epidemiology Center, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (4):

Katherine Guffey, Arizona Department of Economic Security
Wesley Kortuem, Arizona Department of Health Services
Catherine Osborn, Arizona Department of Education
Gowri Shetty, Arizona Department of Health Services, Tobacco Education Prevention Program

Governor's Office Staff (1):

Jeanne Blackburn, (GOCYF, DSAP)

Public (1):

Marie Light, Meth Free Alliance

Call to Order was made by Phillip Stevenson at 1:07 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Phillip Stevenson asked if anyone had any changes to the previous month's meeting minutes and asked if there was an approval of the meeting minutes. No member had any suggestions.



- Michelle Anderson motioned that the meeting minutes be accepted; Richard Porter seconded the motion. When prompted, all members in attendance offered their acceptance of the motion. There were no dissenters. Meeting minutes were accepted.

Announcements

- Phillip Stevenson notified the group that until the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) has reviewed the Strategic Program Area Review (SPAR) report, the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group will table any discussion of a potential resource assessment (as had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group).
- Jeanne Blackburn updated the group on Executive Order 2008-01 and its implications for the group, including the potential for the group to create a survey tool for assessing substance abuse treatment capacity among the executive branch agencies mentioned in EO 2008-01.
 - Phillip Stevenson inquired as to the number of executive branch agencies and the definition of such an agency.
 - Dennis Embry asked how R.I.C.O. money is distributed.
 - Jeanne Blackburn indicated that she would make some inquiries and report her findings to the group.
- Phillip Stevenson updated the members on the status of the Arizona Youth Survey:
 - Approximately 307 schools have agreed to participate, with ~82,000 enrolled students.
 - Field work is set to begin next month.
 - In response to group inquiry, he noted that Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools on reservation lands are not included in the sample.
 - Zeenat Mahal indicated that because the Navajo tribe has a strict Institutional Review Board (IRB), Phillip Stevenson should approach other tribes for inclusion in the survey.
 - Charles Katz noted that due to the survey's large N, now might be a good time to alter the methodology from a cross-sectional survey to a longitudinal one.
 - Phillip Stevenson responded that the high levels of migration would likely affect the feasibility of a longitudinal study.
 - Dennis Embry also noted that a rapid cohort design could be implemented with only a "slice" of the population under investigation, which would avoid a cohort effect. This sub-sample could be re-evaluated in 4 – 6 years.



Guest Presentation: Environmental Methamphetamine Detection

- Marie Light from the Meth Free Alliance presented on environmental substance detection, with a focus on the detection of methamphetamine in neighborhoods in the Tucson area.
 - The group was very interested in the presentation and asked Marie a number of questions.
 - Marie was asked how long drug residue remains in the environment.
 - Marie responded that the length of time that the drug remains on surfaces depends upon a number of factors, including exposure to the elements (i.e., weather) and the frequency that the area is cleaned.
 - Chuck Katz asked Marie what research question(s) is/are being addressed with this technology.
 - Dennis Embry asked how the technology works and how it is being used.
 - Marie was asked whether communities/schools can use this information (i.e., whether an area tests positive for drugs) as a dependent variable for the purposes of neighborhood/school-level intervention(s).
 - Chuck Katz asked Marie how this technology is used in the workplace.
 - Marie indicated that because any drug residue found in the workplace cannot be definitively tied to an individual employee, employers are asked what they will do with the data prior to any environmental detection being conducted at the workplace to ensure that the data will not be improperly used. She also indicated that just as drug residue in the workplace cannot be tied to a particular employee, drug residue found in community areas cannot be tied to any particular community member(s).

First Methamphetamine Quarterly Report Card

- Jeanne Blackburn brought a draft methamphetamine quarterly report card to the meeting, which was passed around the group. Jeanne indicated that due to the inclusion of numerous longitudinal data in the first report card from previous quarters, she will ask for permission to complete the report cards on an annual (rather than quarterly) basis.
 - It was suggested that the quarterly report card be condensed to one page (or a few pages).

Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group: Activities for 2008 and Beyond

- Jeanne Blackburn brought a work plan to the group and asked for input from the members about potential projects for 2008 (and beyond). Activities to be included in this document were discussed:



- Phillip Stevenson asked the group what value the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group brings to the ASAP; what projects do we want to take on that would be valuable to the ASAP?
 - Dennis Embry suggested a score card of 4 or 5 indicators that would be indicative of whether Arizona is “on track” in terms of combating substance abuse, including reducing the burden of substance abuse in child welfare cases.
- Jeanne Blackburn indicated that she would update the work plan with the group’s feedback and bring it to the next meeting.

Emerging Issues Subcommittee: Activities for 2008 and Beyond

- Dennis Embry brought a template to be used as an example handout/product of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee.
- He also noted that due to the length of time and scope of work required to get documents approved through the Governor’s Office or other state governmental agencies, it may be easier to provide a link to the Paxis Institute website from the Governor’s Office website, where any products of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee would be made available.

Discussion of Future Presentations

- Due to lack of time, this item was tabled until a future meeting.

Call to Public

- No one from the public had any comment.

Adjourn at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP).